Frelinghuysen Township School



Student and Family Handbook

www.frelinghuysenschool.org 2023 - 2024



The date of promotion will be established in May and will not conflict with graduation at North Warren Regional. The Board reserves the right to make changes at its discretion. (Title 18A:36-1)

2023-2024 School Calendar FRELINGHUYSEN SCHOOL S S W M W 780 Route 94 Newton, NJ 07860 (908) 362-6319 Jul 4 Independence Day - District Closed Teachers Students Aug 30-31 Teacher In-Service, Pre-K & K Orientation Teachers 22 Students 21 February 2024 W W S M S S Sept 4 Labor Day - District Closed Sept 5 First Day for Students Columbus Day - Teacher In-Service Early Dismissal - Teacher In-Service Students 0 Parent/Teacher Conferences-Students 19 Teachers 2 Nov 6-8 Teachers 19 Early Dismissal W S W S No School - NJEA Conferences Nov 9-10 Nov 22 Early Dismissal Nov 23-24 Thanksgiving Vacation - District Closed Dec 22 Early Dismissal Dec 25-Jan 1 Winter Recess - School Closed 28 29 Teachers 19 Students 19 Teachers 20 Students 20 School Reopens S W S s W S M MLK, Jr. Day - Teacher In-Service M Jan 15 Т Presidents' Day - No School Feb 16-19 Good Friday - District Closed Mar 29 30 31 Apr 1-5 Spring Break Teachers 22 Students 21 Teachers 17 Students 17 May 27 Memorial Day - District Closed Jun 19 Tentative Last Day 10 11 NOTES 21 22 There are (6) snow days built into this calendar. If necessary, the Board reserves the right to Teachers 18 Students 18 make changes at its discretion, per NJSA 18A:36-2 Teachers 22 Students 22 W s s S NJSLA Testing TBD 21 22 NJSLS Science Testing TBD 18 (19) 24 25 Teachers 16 Students 16 Report Cards Teachers 13 Students 13 Trimester Close TM 1 - 12/21 TM 2 - 3/28 Calendar Changes TM 3 - Last Day of School TM 1 - 12/8 TM 2 - 3/15 TM 3 - TBD Early Dismissal School Closed Teacher In-Service/ Teacher In-Service - Half Day for Students First & Last Day of School No School for Students

A MESSAGE FROM THE FRELINGHUYSEN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION This handbook has been prepared to acquaint you with the policies and procedures of Frelinghuysen Township School. It is the desire of the Board of Education to provide the children of Frelinghuysen with the finest education possible. In working toward achieving that goal, we solicit the understanding and cooperation of the parents and residents of the community. This handbook will be supplemented from time to time with additional information about special events or changes in regulations, which will also be communicated through our *Mustang Messenger*, on-line at www.frelinghuysenschool.org and/or through communication from the Chief School Administrator. Please take some time to review the updated information contained within this document. Your comments and suggestions for improving our educational program are always appreciated. We encourage your participation in the many activities of the school system as well as at meetings of the Board of Education. The official meeting dates of the Board of Education can be found on our website. The functions of the Board of Education are governed by policy.

Board of Education policy is a matter of public record and copies are available on our school website.

ADMISSION AGE FOR KINDERGARTEN AND FIRST GRADE All children who will be five years of age on or before October 1st may be admitted to kindergarten in September of each year. To enter Grade One, a child must be six years of age on or before October 1st and comply with all health requirements.

The school laws of New Jersey require every parent, guardian or other person having charge of a child between the ages of six and sixteen to enroll that child in school.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION/SEXUAL HARASSMENT/NON-DISCRIMINATION The Frelinghuysen Township School District complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 ("Title VI"), Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 ("Title IX"), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 ("Section 504"), Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (the "ADA"), the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (the "Age Discrimination Act"), and their respective implementing regulations, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin, sex, disability, and age, respectively. The district provides equal access and opportunity in employment and enrollment and in all its programs and activities, regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, sexual orientation, or age.

The Frelinghuysen Township School is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action institution. To fulfill this responsibility, the Board shall establish a program to review and modify, as may be necessary, the present school and classroom programs and employment/contract practices. Our system does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, national origin, age or physical capability in the operation of its educational program or activities (enrollment, access to programs, physical education, counseling, use of facilities and school sponsored extracurricular activities). The Frelinghuysen Township School shall maintain an instructional and working environment that is free from harassment of any kind. Administrators and supervisors will make it clear to all staff, pupils, and vendors that harassment is prohibited. Board policies pertaining to Affirmative Action/Sexual Harassment and Grievance Procedures are available for view online.

Questions or complaints of discrimination should be directed to Ms. J. Deuel, Affirmative Action Officer, at 780 Route 94, Newton, NJ (908) 362-6319. In addition, inquiries or complaints concerning the application of Title IX, Section 504, the ADA, or the Age Discrimination Act may also be directed to the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, 26 Federal Plaza, Room 33-130, New York, New York 10278, (212)264-4633.

ATTENDANCE Regular attendance is extremely important in order to ensure that each child receives the maximum benefits from regular daily (sequential) instruction. Of course, children cannot attend school when they are ill, but sometimes it is better for a child to be late than to miss an entire day of school. Excessive absences may result in grade retention and may have a negative impact on instruction (Board Policy # 5200). Any family in need of intervention support services to ensure attendance at school will be referred to the RTI committee.

- Absences You are urged to notify the school by telephone when your child is absent. We request that you telephone the school between 8:40 AM and 9:00 AM to advise us of the nature of the illness and the anticipated length of absence. Upon returning to school following any absence or tardiness, students must be accompanied by a note of explanation from a medical professional in order to be excused. All absences without notes will remain on student records as unexcused. Despite this, parents shall be notified of excessive absenteeism for each day over 10.
- **Early Arrival** If parents choose to drive their children to school, they should plan on arriving between 8:30 AM and 8:50 AM There is no supervision prior to 8:30 AM and children **may not** be left unsupervised.

• Tardiness Parents should make every effort to see that their children arrive at school on time by 8:30 AM If your child is late, please sign them in to the main office. Late students cannot be walked to class; rather, they must obtain a pass from the office. Timely student arrival gives your child the maximum benefit from regular daily instruction and creates the least disruption of classes. Repeated tardiness will prompt a parent-administration conference.

BUS TRANSPORTATION The policy of the Board of Education is to provide transportation for students living in remote areas according to the routes and bus stops established annually. Parents are advised to stress safety and proper behavior on the school bus and at bus stops. Misbehavior on the bus may result in the suspension of bus privileges.

- **Bus Drills** The school laws of New Jersey require that at least two school bus evacuation drills be held each school year. Prior to the fall drill, instruction is given to the children by Mrs. Toronzi and the State Police. The second drill in the spring is unannounced and is conducted upon students' arrival at school.
- **Bus Procedures** Each student is provided with one seat on the bus and one stop at their home address. For the safety of all, students may not get off at a different stop nor are students allowed to switch busses.
- **Bus Regulations** The National Safety Council encourages parents to teach their youngsters these procedures for getting on and off the school bus:
- 1. When waiting for the bus, stay away from traffic and avoid roughhousing or other behavior that can lead to carelessness.
- 2. Line up away from the road as the school bus approaches. Wait until the bus has stopped and the door opens before stepping onto the roadway.
- 3. Use the hand rail when stepping onto the bus.
- 4. When on the bus, go directly to your assigned seat and sit down. Avoid loud talking or other noise that can distract the bus driver. Never put head, arms or hands out of the window. Sit quietly, face forward, and buckle up! Use of electronics and cell phones is not allowed on the bus (whether for calling, texting, taking of photos/videos, or gaming).
- 5. Keep aisles clear books or bags are tripping hazards and can block the way in an emergency.
- 6. Before you reach your stop, get ready to leave by getting your books and belongings together.
- 7. At your stop, wait for the bus to stop completely before getting up from your seat. Then, walk to the front door and exit, using the hand rail.
- 8. If you have to cross the street in front of the bus, walk at least ten feet ahead of the bus along the side of the road until you can turn around and see the driver. Make sure that the driver can see you. Wait for a signal from the driver before beginning to cross. When the driver signals, walk across the road, keeping an eye out for sudden traffic changes.
- 9. Do not cross the center line of the road until the driver has signaled that it is safe for you to begin walking.
- 10. Stay away from the rear wheels of the bus at all times.
- 11. Be at the bus stop 5 minutes before the scheduled time. The bus will not wait for latecomers.
- 12. Ride only on your assigned bus and be sure to wait at your designated stop.

CARE OF SCHOOL PROPERTY The Board of Education holds accountable students and parents who abuse or destroy school property. Each child is charged with the proper and careful use of textbooks, Chromebook and educational material. Fines will be charged when there is evidence of abnormal wear. Lost books must be replaced by the individual.

CHARACTER EDUCATION Frelinghuysen Township School provides a comprehensive character education program, emphasizing characteristics such as leadership, kindness and responsibility. Consistently infused and embedded throughout the curricular program and school culture, students will learn and practice the characteristics that

define a positive character. Students are consistently recognized for their displays of model behavior and demonstrating positive characteristics both in the classroom and in daily schoolwide recognitions.

CHILD FIND The Frelinghuysen Elementary School is a PK-6 district that offers varied educational programs and services for students, age three (3) to twelve (12) years. If a student outside the district's age range is identified as needing services, a notice will be given to the school district that is responsible for the evaluation and the implementation of services. Parents or other appropriate persons may refer children who are experiencing significant difficulties.

Child Study Team (CST) services are also available to children ages (3) to (5). Children experiencing physical, sensory, emotional, communication, cognitive, and/or social difficulties may be eligible for special education and related services. Parents should contact the CST office at (908) 362-6319 for more information. Information on special education services for preschool children from birth to three years of age who are thought to have developmental delays and may be eligible to receive assistance from the Early Intervention Program is available through Special Child Health Services at (908) 689-6000 or Project First Step at (908) 689-4542.

Parents concerned about their child's progress have the option of making a referral to the Response to Intervention (RTI) Committee or to the CST. RTI offers intervention procedures that are provided within the regular education school program including additional instruction, basic skills instruction or intervention strategies within the regular educational setting. At times, however, more extensive interventions than can be provided in the regular education setting are necessary to assist the student. If the decision is made to undertake full CST evaluation, the child's social, emotional and academic status may be assessed. Medical or other specialized evaluations may be included in the assessment at no cost to the parent. If a child is determined to be eligible for special education and related services, an Individualized Education Program (IEP) is developed, which includes a rationale for the student's educational placement and the basis for program implementation.

CHILD STUDY TEAM In compliance with Chapter 46 of the Laws of the State of New Jersey, the district maintains a shared Child Study Team. Its purpose is to identify and potentially classify students who need specific types of educational service provided by such professionals as psychologists, learning disability specialists, social workers, and speech-language specialists. Additional information can be obtained by contacting the Child Study Team Supervisor at (908) 362-6677. Copies of NJAC 6:28-1 et. seq. are available upon request.

CLASSROOM VISITORS/VOLUNTEERS Teachers and/or the PTO may coordinate and invite family members to various activities throughout the year. Specifications will be made regarding the number of guests, and events will be designated as parent only or family events. Volunteer events will be parent only. Procedures for classroom visitors/volunteers should be followed:

- All visitors and volunteers must RSVP to the teacher's invitation or the PTO chairperson of the event. Teachers/PTO will provide the office with a list of visitors/volunteers. Any visitor or volunteer not on the list will not be permitted entry to the school.
- Visitors/volunteers may not attend to any other business, walk around the school or visit other classrooms. Visitors/volunteers may not request to see other children during the school day. Visitors/volunteers will be asked to leave the school grounds if this happens.
- When visiting the school or volunteering at events, all visitors/volunteers are asked to remember this is not a time for conferencing with school staff. You may call or email staff at any time to request a separate meeting.

CODE OF CONDUCT

FRELINGHUYSEN TOWNSHIP SCHOOL PUPIL DISCIPLINE/CODE OF CONDUCT (Policy No. 5600)

Expectations for Academic Achievement, Behavior, and Attendance

All students have a responsibility to comply with State statutes and administrative codes for academic achievement, behavior, and attendance, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:32-8 and 12.1.

Behaviors That May Result in Suspension or Expulsion

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:37-2, any student who is guilty of continued and willful disobedience, open defiance of the authority of any teacher or person having authority over the student, the habitual use of profanity or of obscene language, or who shall cut, deface or otherwise injure any school property, shall be liable to punishment and to suspension or expulsion from school. Conduct which shall constitute good cause for suspension or expulsion of a student guilty of such conduct shall include, but not be limited to, any of the following:

- Continued and willful disobedience;
- Open defiance of the authority of any teacher or person, having authority over the student;
- Conduct of such character as to constitute a continuing danger to the physical well-being of other students;
- Physical assault upon another student;
- Taking, or attempting to take, personal property or money from another student, or from the student's presence, by means of force or fear;
- Willfully causing, or attempting to cause, substantial damage to school property;
- Participation in an unauthorized occupancy by any group of students or others of any part of any school or other building owned by any school district, and failure to leave such school or other facility promptly after having been directed to do so by the Principal or other person then in charge of such building or facility;
- Incitement which is intended to and does result in unauthorized occupation by any group of students or others of any part of a school or other facility owned by any school district;
- Incitement which is intended to and does result in truancy by other students;
- knowing possession or knowing consumption without legal authority of alcoholic beverages or controlled dangerous substances on school premises, or being under the influence of intoxicating liquor or controlled dangerous substances while on school premises; and
- Harassment, intimidation, or bullying.

Comprehensive Behavioral Supports

Below are behavioral supports that promote positive student development and the students' abilities to fulfill the behavioral expectations established by the Board. These behavioral supports may include, but are not limited to, the following:

Positive Reinforcement for Good Conduct and Academic Success

A student will be provided positive reinforcement for good conduct and academic success.

2. Supportive Interventions and Referral Services

A student may be referred to the school's Response to Intervention Committee in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-8.1 and 8.2 and Policy and Regulation 2417.

3. Remediation of Problem Behavior

The following actions may be taken to remediate problem behavior. These actions will take into account the behavior's nature, the students' developmental ages, and the students' histories of problem behaviors and performance.

- a. Restitution and Restoration
- (1) A student may be required to make restitution for any loss resulting from the student's conduct; or
- (2) A student may be required, at the discretion of the school district and when appropriate, to restore to its former condition any damaged or defaced property resulting from the student's conduct.
- b. Counseling
- (1) A student may be required to consult with school guidance counselors or Child Study Team members
- (2) The counselor will explain why the student's conduct is unacceptable to the school and damaging to the student, what the consequences of continued misconduct are likely to be, and appropriate alternative behaviors.

- (3) The counselor may refer the student, as appropriate, for additional counseling, evaluation, intervention, treatment, or therapy. Referrals may be made to the Child Study Team, the school's Response to Intervention Committee, a public or private social agency, a legal agency, or any other referral service that may assist the student.
- c. Parent Conferences
- (1) Students may be required to attend a meeting with their parent and appropriate school staff members to discuss the causes of the student's behavior, possible remediation, potential disciplinary measures, and alternative conduct
- d. Alternate Educational Program
- (1) Students may be assigned to an alternate educational program as recommended by the student's guidance counselor, classroom teacher, Child Study Team, and/or other school staff member.

Description of School Responses

School responses to violations of behavioral expectations are listed below:

- 1. Admonishment/Reprimand
- a. A school staff member in authority may admonish or reprimand a student's unacceptable conduct and warn the student that additional misconduct may warrant a more severe penalty.
- 2. Temporary Removal from Classroom
- a. The classroom teacher may direct the student report to the office of the administrator in charge of student discipline.
- b. The teacher will complete a form that indicates the student's name and the conduct that has caused the student's removal from the teacher's room.
- c. The administrator in charge of discipline will interview the student and determine which, if any, additional consequences shall be imposed
- 3. Meeting with School Administration and Parent
- a. The student's parent may be required to attend a meeting with the Principal or designee and the student to discuss the student's conduct and to ensure the parent and the student understand school rules and expectations
- 4. Deprivation of Privileges
- a. Students may be deprived privileges as disciplinary sanctions when designed to maintain the order and integrity of the school environment. These privileges may include, but are not limited to:
- (1) Moving freely about the school building
- (2) Participation in co-curricular or inter/intrascholastic activities;
- (3) Attendance at a school-related social or sports activity;
- (4) Participation in a graduation ceremony;
- (5) Transportation to and from school on a school bus; or
- (6) Any other privilege the Building Principal or designee determines may be appropriate and consistent with Policy and Regulation 5600 and N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.1 et seg.
- 5. Detention
- a. A student may be required to report before or after the school day or during recess to detention. This detention may be assigned by the teacher or the Principal or designee.
- b. Transportation to detention before school or from detention after school will be the responsibility of the parent.
- c. A student may be excused from detention only for an unavoidable commitment previously made; any such excused detention must be made up on another day.
- 6. Grade Adjustment
- a. A student who has cheated on a test or assignment, plagiarized material, falsified sources, refused to submit assignments, or otherwise indulged in academic dishonesty or negligence may suffer a reduced grade by virtue of the disqualified work. In no other instance may a student's grade be lowered as a direct penalty for misconduct.
- 7. In-school Suspension
- a. If the school operates an in-school suspension program, a student may be removed from his/her regular classes and required to report to the in-school suspension program.
- b. In-school suspension will not be imposed without the due process procedures set forth in Policy and Regulation 5610.

- 8. Suspension from School
- a. A student may be denied the right to attend school for a period of time pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:37-2, N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.2 and 6A:16-7.3, and Policy 5610.
- b. Suspension from school will not be imposed without the due process procedures set forth in Policy and Regulation 5610.
- 9. Expulsion
- a. The Board may expel a general education student from school, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:37-2, N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.4, and Policy 5620.
- b. Expulsion is an extremely serious disciplinary measure and will not be imposed without the due process set forth in Policy and Regulation 5610 and Policy 5620.

Student Conduct Away from School Grounds

- 1. The Building Principal or designee has the right to impose a consequence on a student for conduct away from school grounds that is consistent with the Board's Code of Student Conduct, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.1.
- a. This authority shall be exercised only when it is reasonably necessary for the student's physical or emotional safety, security, and well-being or for reasons relating to the safety, security, and well-being of other students, staff, or school grounds, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:25-2 and 18A:37-2.
- b. This authority shall be exercised only when the conduct that is the subject of the proposed consequence materially and substantially interferes with the requirements of appropriate discipline in the operation of the school
- c. Consequences for conduct away from school grounds shall be handled in accordance with the Board approved Code of Student Conduct, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.1, Policy and Regulation 5600, and as appropriate, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.2, 7.3, or 7.4.
- 2. School authorities shall respond to harassment, intimidation, or bullying that occurs off school grounds, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:37-14 and 15.3 and N.J.A.C. 6A:16-1.3, 7.1, and 7.7.

School Bus Conduct

Offensive Conduct

Violations of the rules regarding student conduct on school buses will be handled as follows:

- 1. The bus driver will report unacceptable conduct to the Principal of the school in which the student is enrolled by submission of a completed written report that includes the name of the student, the school, and the student's conduct.
- 2. The Principal or designee will investigate the matter, which may include meeting with the bus driver, bus aide, other students on the school bus, and the student who was reported by the bus driver.
- 3. The parent will be notified of the student's reported conduct.
- 4. The Principal or designee will make a determination if the student violated behavioral expectations and the discipline to be administered in accordance with the Code of Student Conduct.
- 5. If it is determined the misconduct is severe, the student may be suspended from the bus pending a conference with the parent.

FRELINGHUYSEN TOWNSHIP SCHOOL CODE OF CONDUCT

1)	Insubordination/Disobedience
•	1 st offense: reprimand
	2 nd offense: loss of recess/privileges, parent contact
	3 rd offense: administrative discretion
2)	Disruption
•	1 st offense: reprimand
	2 nd offense: loss of recess/privileges, parent contact
	3 rd offense: administrative discretion
3)	Dress/Grooming Code Violation
	1 st offense: parent contact
	2 nd offense: loss of recess/privileges, parent contact
	3 rd offense: administrative discretion
4)	Language Misuse (cursing, name calling, derogatory statements)
	1 st offense: reprimand

	2 nd offense: loss of recess/privileges, parent contact
	3 rd offense: administrative discretion
5)	Littering
3)	1 st offense: reprimand
	2 nd offense: loss of recess/privileges, parent contact
	3 rd offense: administrative discretion
6)	Cheating
,	1 st offense: reprimand, parent contact
	2 nd offense: loss of recess/privileges, parent contact
	3 rd offense: administrative discretion
7)	Falsifications
	1 st offense: reprimand, parent contact
	2 nd offense: loss of recess/privileges, parent contact
	3 rd offense: administrative discretion
8)	Failure to Wear Seatbelt in School Bus
	1 st offense: reprimand, parent contact
	2 nd offense: loss of recess/privileges, parent contact
0)	3 rd offense: bus suspension
9)	Misuse of Computers/Networks
	1 st offense: reprimand, parent contact 2 nd offense: loss of recess/privileges, parent contact
	3 rd offense: administrative discretion
10)	Recklessness
10)	1 st offense: reprimand
	2 nd offense: loss of recess/privileges, parent contact
	3 rd offense: administrative discretion
11)	Fighting
,	1 st offense: loss of recess/privileges, parent contact
	2 nd offense: detention/suspension
	3 rd offense: administrative discretion
12)	Wrongful Entry
	1 st offense: detention/suspension, parent contact
	2 nd offense: suspension
	3 rd offense: administrative discretion
13)	Vandalism
	1 st offense: loss of recess/privileges, parent contact, restitution
	2 nd offense: detention/suspension, restitution 3 rd offense: administrative discretion
14)	Theft
14)	1 st offense: parent contact, restitution
	2 nd offense: detention/suspension, restitution
	3 rd offense: administrative discretion
15)	Smoking
,	1 st offense: loss of recess/privileges, parent contact
	2 nd offense: detention/suspension
	3 rd offense: administrative discretion
16)	Substance Abuse
	1 st offense: detention/suspension, parent contact
	2 nd offense: suspension
	3 rd offense: administrative discretion
17)	Arson
	1 st offense: detention/suspension, restitution, parent contact
	2 nd offense: suspension, restitution
	3 rd offense: administrative discretion

18) Exploding Devices

1st offense: detention/suspension, parent contact

2nd offense: suspension

3rd offense: administrative discretion

19) Falsifying Alarm

1st offense: detention/suspension, parent contact

2nd offense: suspension

3rd offense: administrative discretion

20) Weapon Possession

1st offense: detention/suspension, parent contact

2nd offense: suspension

3rd offense: administrative discretion Harassment, Intimidation, Bullying

1st offense: based on findings of School Safety Team 2nd offense: based on findings of School Safety Team 3rd offense: based on findings of School Safety Team

Repeat Offenses

21)

All incidents of pupil misconduct warranting consequences of at least "loss of recess/privileges" will be tracked using student management software. Each tracked offense will be assigned 1 demerit. Upon student attainment of 5 demerits, parent contact will be initiated. Upon attainment of 10 demerits or more, loss of classroom/school privileges will apply (administrative discretion).

COMMUNITY COMPLAINTS AND INQUIRIES Pursuant to policy 9130, complaints and grievances from the public shall be processed in the following manner:

- 1. A Complainant shall first make the complaint known to the staff member most closely involved in an attempt to solve the matter directly.
- 2. A complaint or grievance not resolved with the staff member should be brought to the attention of the Supervisor of Student Services or the Chief School Administrator (CSA). Every attempt should be made to resolve the issue at this level. A conference with the CSA, the complainant, and the staff member shall be held in an effort to resolve the dispute.
- 3. Only in those cases where satisfactory solutions cannot be founded by the CSA shall complaints be referred to the Board for resolution.
- 4. A complainant who is dissatisfied with the decision of the CSA and who wishes to appeal may do so by sending a written request to the Board Secretary, who will place the concern on the agenda.
- 5. Prior to making its decision to adopt, reject, or modify the decision of the CSA, the Board, or a committee of the Board, may meet with the complainant to provide an opportunity to show why the CSA's decision should be adopted, rejected, or modified.

COMMUNITY INPUT Suggestions for improvement are always welcome from members of the community, and the Board of Education encourages community participation in its meetings and events. Information to be brought to the attention of the Board should be submitted to the Chief School Administrator or to the Board Secretary.

If at any time you wish to address the full Board personally, time may be requested for this presentation by contacting the Board Secretary, who will place your concern on the agenda. As always, citizens may be heard at each Board meeting during "Hearing and Petitions of Citizens" according to established Board policy.

CONFERENCES Conferences are scheduled once a year in November. Each family will have the opportunity to speak with their child's teacher to discuss progress and concerns. If a child is experiencing difficulties at any other time during the school year, conferences with the teacher may be requested at any time.

DRESS AND GROOMING Pursuant to Board of Education Policy 5511, it is the responsibility of parents/guardians to send children to school properly dressed.

The Board authorizes the Chief School Administrator to develop school regulations prohibiting pupil dress or grooming practices which:

- 1. Present a hazard to the health or safety of the pupil himself/herself or to others in the school.
- 2. Materially interfere with school work, create disorder, or disrupt the educational program.
- 3. Cause excessive wear or damage to school property.
- 4. Prevent the pupil from achieving his/her own educational objectives because of blocked vision or restricted movement.

Minimum standards shall take into account cleanliness, neatness, health, and appropriateness as well as the weather conditions. Students who are wearing questionable attire will be sent to the school nurse or the Chief School Administrator, where a determination will be made as to appropriateness.

DISMISSAL PROCEDURES If you plan to pick up your child at 3:15 PM please send a note to your child's teacher. If your child is staying after school for a club activity, they must have a note for each day that they are staying. Last minute phone calls at the end of the day cause class disruption and should be limited to emergencies only. Parents should park in the parking lot where spaces are marked when picking up their children. Students being picked up will be dismissed through the front door while the buses are being loaded. Parents may not go to the classrooms or lobby to pick up their children and should NOT plan to pull children off of the bus. If a parent has not called ahead for pick up, permission should be obtained from staff on bus duty.

EMERGENCY CLOSINGS During inclement weather, school may be closed for the day, or opening of school may be delayed, or school may be closed early in the day. You should advise your child of a procedure to follow during these emergencies, especially if you are not at home. During these emergencies, the following procedures will be followed:

- 1. Announcements will be sent via our Realtime Alert system as soon as the decision has been made. All new families will be automatically entered into the Realtime System. If you believe there is an error, please call the main office for assistance. Please remember to keep all information up-to-date when phone numbers or contacts change.
- 2. Announcements will also be posted on our website www.frelinghuysenschool.org and on our Facebook page Frelinghuysen Township School District.
- School Closings Six snow days have been included in the school calendar. Should there be a need for more than 6 snow days; the Board of Education will determine when days will be made up. Any unused snow days will be deleted from the calendar in June. The Board reserves the right to make changes at its discretion (Title 18A:36-1).
- Early Dismissals Once the students arrive at school and circumstances dictate an early dismissal, the school will be dismissed at 12:40 PM and bus transportation will be provided as usual. Parents should pre-arrange an alternate plan for their children to follow when school is closed early. Please discuss this plan with your child. Also, school is dismissed at 12:40 PM on various scheduled days throughout the school year. (See inside front cover). Please be aware that school lunch is NOT served on early dismissal days, therefore, you should provide your child with a snack for mid-morning.
- **Delayed Opening** Transportation and all other procedures will be delayed by the time announced, which will be two (2) hours (10:30 AM) Please do not telephone the school, the radio station, or the police, as this makes it difficult to get messages out. Dismissal will be at 3:15 PM on "delayed opening" days.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION FORMS Parents are requested to complete these important forms so that the school may file and refer to them in case of accident or sudden illness. They include addresses, places of employment, and persons to contact in the parents' absence. Parents are reminded to complete one form each year for each child.

ENTRY SYSTEM Parents and all visitors must press the buzzer on the wall to the right of the front entrance, wait for an answer from the main office, and announce themselves via the intercom. Only those with a previous appointment or who have called ahead will be allowed entry into the school. At the sound of the buzzer, visitors

should enter the building and **report immediately to the main office to sign in and await instructions**. All visitors are required to wear a visitor's badge to be returned upon sign out. Visitors agree to limit their visits to the specific activity only. Once you have signed out, please do not attempt to re-visit classrooms or other areas. During family events, children accompanying visitors MUST be closely supervised <u>at all times</u>, including evening and recreation events.

FIELD TRIPS Grade level, instructionally appropriate field trips may be planned according to Board of Education Policy 2340. Students are expected to adhere to all rules and regulations of the school district. Any display of in appropriate conduct while on a field trip may result in disciplinary action as determined by the Student Code of Conduct.

FIRE/EMERGENCY DRILLS The school laws of New Jersey require that all schools hold at least one fire and one emergency drill each month of the school year. An accurate record of the time of the drill and evacuation time must also be kept. Children leave the building quickly and quietly. In addition, lock-down drills will be held.

GIVING OF MESSAGES Please do not call school unless there is an emergency. Many matters can and should be settled at home before the child leaves. Only emergency messages will be delivered to the child. When you call, please give: 1. child's name, 2. name of teacher, 3. the message. Students will not be called to the telephone. Teachers will not hand out any messages or invitations that do not include every child in the entire class.

HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION AND BULLYING (HIB) In accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:37-14 and pursuant to Board of Education policy 5512, the Board of Education prohibits acts of harassment, intimidation, or bullying of a student. A safe and civil environment in school is necessary for students to learn and achieve high academic standards. Harassment, intimidation, or bullying, like other disruptive or violent behaviors, is conduct that disrupts both a student's ability to learn and a school's ability to educate its students in a safe and disciplined environment. Harassment, intimidation, or bullying is unwanted, aggressive behavior that may involve a real or perceived power imbalance. All alleged acts of HIB should be reported to the Anti-Bullying Specialist.

HEALTH SERVICES The school nurse carries out the health program not only with the child, but with parents, the school physician, and the various community and state agencies. However, if a parent so desires, the family physician may examine the student and send a report of the findings.

According to the N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.2, all medical examinations must be conducted in the student's medical home (a health care provider and that provider's practice site chosen by the student's parents or guardians for the provision of health care).

All incoming Kindergarten students must receive a full medical examination by a physician. Students in the fifth grade will also need a medical examination, including scoliosis screening and Hepatitis B vaccination. Physical forms will be sent home with fifth grade students.

During the school year, each child is weighed, measured, and tested for vision and hearing by Mrs. Toronzi, R.N. In addition, all students in grades four and six are screened annually for scoliosis. Defects found during the examinations are reported to the parents or guardians. Whenever a child is to be examined by a specialist, a form should be obtained from the school nurse in advance so that it may be filled out by the examining physician and returned to school.

Because infections spread easily, and to protect both your child and others, the school medical examiner and the school nurse feel it is better to be absent one or two days than to have an entire class exposed to illness. Do not send your child to school if he/she has a sore throat. Students must be temperature free for 24 hours prior to their return to school. If your child does not feel well before school in the morning, do not send him/her to school to be diagnosed by the school nurse. If any child is absent from school due to illness, he/she may not participate in day, after school and/or evening programs.

The school makes every effort to provide a safe school environment. If a child is hurt in an accident, first-aid will be administered and the parents notified. The school interprets first-aid as being the immediate temporary care given to an injured person before a doctor arrives. The responsibility of the school is to care for accidents that happen during school and not those that occur out of this time.

Medication Medication shall be administered to pupils during school time only under exceptional circumstances where a child's health may be in jeopardy without it. Because of the dangerous results from the improper use of

medicine or drugs, medication such as aspirin, nasal sprays, poison ivy lotions, etc. should not be brought to school. However, in cases where daily medication is absolutely necessary and has been prescribed by a physician, both parent and physician must complete the appropriate form available from the nurse. Medication may not be given in school until this form is completed.

The Board of Education has established the following guidelines for the administration of medicine in our school district:

- 1. The parent or guardian should provide a written request for the administration of the prescribed medication at school.
- 2. The medication should be brought to school in the original container appropriately labeled by the pharmacy or physician.
- 3. The school shall provide a secured, locked space for the safe storage of medication. Prescription drugs should be kept secure at all times.
- 4. The certified school nurse or parent/guardian is the only one permitted to administer medication in the school. (Exceptions: 1. emergencies, such as a violent bee sting reaction, or 2. severe medical conditions that are life threatening. Any school personnel, in such events, may administer medical attention).
- 5. If a youngster is able to administer his/her own medication, the school shall provide supervision, but no assistance in the taking of said medication.
- 6. Parents or guardians must come to school to give medication if a youngster is unable to self-administer and the school nurse is not available.

HOMEWORK Homework is given to extend and reinforce what is taught in the classroom. The following suggestions for parents are endorsed by the staff:

- 1. Take an interest in what your child is doing at school.
- 2. Provide a quiet atmosphere/suitable time for completion of assignments.
- 3. Check for the quality of student work completed.
- Make-Up Work Policy If a child has been absent, his/her teacher will have make-up work ready for the next day or date of return. In the event of a multiple-day absence, the work will be ready for pick up at the end of the second day. Please do not plan vacations or avoidable extended absences during the school year. When it is unavoidable, please inform your child's teacher and be advised that student's make-up work will not be available prior to the absence.

INTERVENTION SERVICES Intervention services are available through the school-based Response to Intervention team which designs and monitors the implementation of strategies for educating non-classified students experiencing difficulties in their classes. They coordinate and/or deliver interventions and requests for assistance for these pupils. If you feel your child is having difficulties in the classroom, request a meeting with your child's teacher to discuss the difficulties and options for assistance.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION Registration of all Kindergarten children takes place in the spring. Board of Education policy specifies that a child must attain the age of five by October 1st of the school year in which he or she enters. In addition, the New Jersey State Department of Health requires that all students in public schools have the following:

- 1. 4 Doses (including booster) D.P.T. vaccine *
- 2. 3 Doses (including booster) Oral Polio vaccine *
- 1 Dose Measles vaccine
- 4. 1 Dose Rubella vaccine (on or after first birthday)
- 5. 1 Dose Mumps vaccine (on or after first birthday)
- 6. 2nd Dose of Measles (MMR, MR or Measles)
- 7. 3 Doses of Hepatitis B vaccine
- 8. 1 Dose Chickenpox (varicella) vaccine

A pre-entry physical is required by your family physician. Please direct any questions to the school nurse.

* One of the required DPT & Polio vaccines must be administered on or after the fourth birthday.

The school laws of New Jersey require every parent, guardian or other person having contact or charge of a child between the ages of six and sixteen to enroll that child or children to school.

LOST ARTICLES Clothing that is misplaced may usually be found in the lost and found area. Cell phones, video games, and other valuable items are not permitted in school. Unfortunately, from time to time, students suffer loss of personal property. Although such losses are regrettable, the Board of Education cannot be held responsible.

LUNCH PROGRAM The Frelinghuysen Township School offers all students a full lunch program providing Class A meals of excellent quality. Students may purchase these complete meals. Menus are posted on our website and sent home each month.

We encourage parents to purchase school lunch tickets for their children. The use of tickets avoids the problem of daily lunch money. Students may, however, purchase meals and milk on a daily basis. Prices are listed on the monthly menu. Free and reduced priced meals and/or milk are available to qualifying families. Applications for this program may be obtained from the school office.

• Lunch Charging Procedures The borrowing of money by students to pay for lunch or milk is discouraged; however, in the case of an emergency, an I.O.U. may be requested <u>ONLY</u> from the cafeteria manager. The child should bring in the money owed for the I.O.U. on the next school day. Parents will be notified of an I.O.U and should pay the charged amount as quickly as possible. I.O.U.s will not be issued for a la carte items or snacks.

Lunchtime Behavior

- 1. Students will keep voices at a reasonable level.
- Students will remain seated unless instructed to do otherwise.
- 3. Students will clean up their eating areas.
- 4. Students will use appropriate table manners at all times (throwing food, playing with food, and being disruptive will not be tolerated).

PARKING Our parking lot provides appropriate spaces for staff and parents. Whether you are picking-up your child or coming to school for an event, please park your vehicle in a designated (lined) parking space only. If you are dropping your child off at school, please drive through the parking lot (not the fire lane) and stop at the marked crosswalk. For everyone's safety, the fire lane is blocked off during school hours. Please observe all signs and directives from school staff.

PARENT-TEACHER ORGANIZATION The Frelinghuysen Township Parent-Teacher Organization is comprised of parents and educators who support education in our town through fund-raisers, hospitality, donating funds, providing scholarships to former students to further their education after high school, sponsoring various social, health, safety, and cultural programs for the pupils of the school district, and offering service where needed in the Frelinghuysen Township School. Meetings will not be held when school is closed due to inclement weather. Please see the appendix for a list of meeting dates, volunteer events and the executive board.

PRESIDENT'S ACADEMIC AWARDS PROGRAM The criteria for receipt of this award are established by the United States Department of Education and endorsed by the President of the United States. Only students in grade six are eligible for this award.

Gold Award Selection Criteria -- To be eligible for the President's Award for Educational Excellence, students must earn a grade point average of 90 on a 100-point scale, (an A on a letter scale or a 3.5 on a 4.0 scale) every marking period in grades 4-6.

Silver Award Selection Criteria – This award recognizes students showing outstanding educational growth, improvement, commitment to or intellectual development in their academic subjects-but do not meet the criteria for the President's Award for Educational Excellence. It should not be compared to the President's Award for Educational Excellence or be seen as a second tier award; it recognizes a very different type of academic achievement. It is meant to encourage and reward students who work hard and give their best effort in school.

PROGRAMS The following programs are offered by our district in accordance with the New Jersey Student Learning Standards and our local district curriculum.

Art, Career Education, Computer/Technology, Family Life, Field Trips, Gifted and Talented, English Language Arts/Literacy, Mathematics, Media, Music Education, Physical Education/Health, Pre-School, Resource Center Program, Science, Social Studies, Speech, and World Language (Spanish).

RECESS As mandated, all students will have a 20 minute recess period. Recess will be held outside as often as possible, weather permitting, so please ensure children are dressed appropriately.

RIGHT TO KNOW AND INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT The New Jersey "Workers and Community Right to Know Act" (N.J.S.A. 34:5A-1 et seq.) establishes a comprehensive system for the disclosure and dissemination of information to employees and community residents about hazardous substances in the work place and the environment.

A thorough inspection of our grounds and school building is annually completed. Hazardous substances present on school property are appropriately labeled and stored in approved containers. More information on hazardous substances is available through the school's main office.

REPORT CARDS The grading system in the Frelinghuysen Township School is designed to foster effective communication between home and school and aligns with the regional school system. Report cards for grades Kindergarten through six are issued at the end of each trimester. There are three trimesters per year. Our teachers welcome the opportunity to discuss your child's work regarding any facet of the classroom program. Please do not hesitate to contact us or to request an interim progress report.

Grading System

K-2 Grade Scale	
E	Exceeding Expectations
	Consistently demonstrates and applies the strategies,
	concepts or skills independently
M	Meeting Expectations
	Frequently applies the strategies, concepts or skills
	independently
Α	Approaching Expectations
	Demonstrating expectations and applying concepts less than
	half of the time
N	Not Yet Meeting Expectations
	Performing and demonstrating strategies, concepts or skills
	does not yet meet grade level expectations
NI	Not introduced yet

	Grades 3-6		
Academic Subject Areas			
A+	100-97		
Α	96-93		
A-	92-90		
B+	89-88		
В	87-83		
B-	82-80		
C+	79-78		
С	77-73		
C-	72-70		

D+	69-68		
D	67-63		
D-	62-60		
F	59-0		
	Special Subject Areas		
E	Exceeding Expectations		
	Consistently demonstrates and applies the strategies, concepts or		
	skills independently		
M	Meeting Expectations		
	Frequently applies the strategies, concepts or skills independently		
Α	Approaching Expectations		
	Demonstrating expectations and applying concepts less than half of the time		
N	Not Yet Meeting Expectations		
	Performing and demonstrating strategies, concepts or skills does		
not yet meet grade level expectations			

RESPONSE TO INTERVENTION (RTI) The Response to Intervention (RTI) Committee is a school based committee that meets to provide assistance to any child who is identified to have academic, behavioral or other concerns. It is a collaborative effort comprised of teachers, Child Study Team representatives and administration, along with the child's family, to determine needs and provide support for the child. If you believe your child is in need of intervention, please communicate with your child's teacher and/or the committee chairperson for information on referring your child.

SAFE DRUG-FREE SCHOOLS The Frelinghuysen Township School District, under the Safe and Drug-Free School and Communities Act Amendments of 1994, Public Law 103-382, provides a program to prevent the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs (ATODs) by its students and employees on school premises or as part of any of its school activities. The law provides a program to prevent violence in and around schools. The professional staff provides age appropriate, developmentally-based education and prevention programs for all students. Standards of conduct and sanctions for students and employees are part of Board policies and regulations and are available upon request. Compliance with these standards is mandatory for all. SMOKING OF ANY TOBACCO PRODUCT, VAPING DEVICES, DRINKING OF ALCOHOL, OR USE OF ANY ILLEGAL DRUG IS NOT ALLOWED ON SCHOOL PROPERTY.

SAFE SCHOOLS According to Board policy and State Law, <u>weapons</u> are not permitted on school property. The law is very specific, and the legal consequences are severe. Please remind your child not to bring toy guns, knives, look-a-like weapons, penknives, razor blades, utility knives, etc. to school. If your child sees anyone with weapons or ATODs on school property, he/she must immediately report this to a responsible adult.

SCHOOL TIME SCHEDULE

Arrival Time	8:30-8:50 AM
Late Bell	8:50 AM
Normal School Day	8:30 – 3:15 PM
AM Preschool	8:30-11:30
Delayed Opening Day	10:30 – 3:15 PM
AM Preschool	10:30-12:15
Early Dismissal Day	8:30 – 12:55 PM
AM Preschool	8:30-11:30

Students, who MUST be excused earlier, are required to bring a signed note to the office. Parents/guardians may pick up the child in the school office and will be required to sign the student out. NO STUDENT WILL BE RELEASED WITHOUT APPROPRIATE ADULT VERIFICATION. Verification may be made by office personnel based on personal knowledge, driver's license, or student recognition.

SCHOOL VISITATIONS All visitors are required to have an appointment or call ahead prior to being granted entry to the school. Visitors should report to the school office upon entering the building and sign the register book. At that time visitors will receive a badge, which is returned to the office when the visitor signs out. Once you have signed out please do not attempt to re-visit classrooms or other areas. During family events, children accompanying visitors must be closely supervised <u>at all times</u>, including evenings and recreation events. Parents are reminded that going directly to your child's classroom disrupts instruction and procedure. If it is necessary to bring articles of clothing, lunches, etc. to school, they will be left in the school vestibule. The child's name should be written on the article.

SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS School Volunteers (parents and community members) are encouraged to participate in classroom/school activities under the direction of the teacher in charge of the program. All activities, communications, fundraisers, and materials used must be approved by the teacher in charge of the program and the Chief School Administrator. All volunteers are required to sign in at the office and wear a badge while in the building. Volunteers are subject to the same rules as other school visitors.

SNACKS Students in grades preK-3 should bring a healthy snack every day. Special events, such as birthdays, are permitted to be celebrated with a snack to be shared with the child's class in the cafeteria, <u>after</u> lunch. Snacks should be individually wrapped or have the ability to be individually handled for ease of handing out. Any other special events with snacks in the classrooms will be communicated from the teacher.

TESTING Standardized assessments (NJSLA) are administered annually to Frelinghuysen Township School children in grades three through six. Their purpose is to improve instruction by determining the instructional needs of children. To this end, assessment results are among the data used to:

- 1. Diagnose and address pupils' strengths and weaknesses in specific skill and knowledge areas.
- 2. Assess the effectiveness of teaching methods and other elements of the instructional program, and evaluate our progress toward promoting academic excellence.

Please contact us should you have specific questions regarding testing. Notification concerning standardized testing dates and results will be sent home during the course of the school year.

USE OF SCHOOL BUILDING Permission to use the Frelinghuysen Township School will be granted to local organizations when, in the opinion of the Board of Education, the anticipated use will not interfere with the normal functioning of the school program. The sole authority for granting this permission rests with the Board of Education. The policies and procedures for securing the use of the school building are as follows:

- 1. Request an application blank from the school office or you may print the form from our website.
- 2. Submit application to the office of the Board Secretary at least one week prior to the Board of Education Meeting.
- 3. Notification of the decision will be made promptly following the Board meeting.
- 4. Any matter of special fees, conditions, or instructions not covered on the application form will be communicated to the applying agency at the time of notification.
- 5. Certificate of Insurance is required.
- 6. Kitchen facilities and equipment (freezers, oven, etc.) are strictly off-limits and may be used only in the presence of cafeteria staff.

WEBSITE Our school website is located at www.frelinghuysenschool.org. News and Events, Special Information and School and Community Links can be accessed at this site. Classroom web pages including subject area focus and assignments/homework are updated throughout the school year. School forms are available for printing. All teachers will update either a website or an app such as Class Dojo to communicate with families.

STAFF ASSIGNMENTS 2023 – 2024

Chief School Administrator

Jarlyn Veras

Guidance Counselor

Katherine Gould

TEACHERS

PK	Marguerite Mulcahy
K	Kimberly Allen
1	Lisa Naomi
2	Jen Guida
3	Christine Wagner
4	Kate Lorenzo
5	Pete Arena
6	Diana Puzio

SPECIAL SUBJECT TEACHERS

Art

Tech/Media/Spanish Aimee Kronmiller Instr./General Music **Deborah Thompson** Ruth Toronzi, R.N. Nurse Phys. Ed./Health Cole Van Luvender **Special Education** Jessica Pryor Special Education Anna Hackelberg Speech Carol Freeborn Occupational Therapist Margie Auer **Physical Therapist** Dana Paesler

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Tanya Amabile

CHILD STUDY TEAM

Nick Moustakas, LDTC Wendy Keefer, School Psychologist Sheri Brady, Social Worker

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Christine Wagner	wagner@frelinghuysenschool.org	

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